

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claim 18 is currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-17 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-17 and 19-21 are now pending in this application.

Objection to the Title:

In the Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to because it was not descriptive. By way of this amendment and reply, a more descriptive title is being submitted.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7, 9, 10 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,891,484 to Waggott et al.; claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 5,822,669 to Okabayashi et al.; claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okabayashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0002882 to Takagi et al.; and claims 9-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okabayashi et al. in view of Waggott et al. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Waggott et al. discloses a pair of opposed coil assemblies 1 and 2 between which the workpiece 100 to be heated is passed longitudinally. However, Waggott does not disclose or suggest a structure including a plurality of resonant circuits having different resonance frequencies.

Okabayashi et al. discloses a coil assembly 12 including a bobbin 20 provided with a through-hole 20a in its center, a coil 22 wound around the bobbin 20, and a core 23 provided in the through-hole 20a of the bobbin 20. However, Okabayashi does not disclose or suggest a structure including a plurality of resonant circuits having different resonance frequencies.

Takagi et al. discloses a structure in which the coils 21a, 21b and 21c are wound around the same shaft, as shown in FIG. 2A of Takagi et al.. However, Takagi et al. does not disclose or suggest a structure including a plurality of resonant circuits having different resonance frequencies.

In comparison with the cited art of record, a fixing device recited in claim 1 recites that: each of the first coil unit and the second coil unit forms a resonant circuit, and a resonance frequency of the first coil unit is different from a resonance frequency of the second coil unit.

Since none of the cited art of record discloses or suggests the above-mentioned features of claim 1, that claim is not anticipated by any of the cited art of record, alone or in combination.

Presently pending independent claim 9 recites similar features to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and thus claim 9 is not anticipated by any of the cited art of record, alone or in combination.

With respect to presently pending independent claim 16, that claim recites that the coil holding bodies each has a hollow cylindrical shape into which the core is inserted from an axial direction, and claim 16 also recites that two coil leads wound around each of the coil holding bodies are connected to the power supply device through different grooves, and wherein potentials of the two coil leads running through the different grooves are equal.

Such features as recited in presently pending independent claim 16 are not disclosed, taught or suggested by any of the art cited against that claim.

The presently pending dependent claims under rejection are patentable due to their respective dependencies on one of the presently pending independent claims discussed above, as well as for the specific features recited in those dependent claims.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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